

Amphetamines Used by a To Lift Moods of Fan

By **BOYCE RENSBERGER**

For many years Dr. Max Jacobson, a 72-year-old general practitioner in New York, has been injecting amphetamine—the powerful stimulant the drug culture calls “speed”—into the veins of dozens of the country’s most celebrated artists, writers, politicians and jet-setters.

Many patients of the German-born doctor swear by the potions he concocts in his office and insist—without always knowing what is in the injections—that he has helped them achieve success. Most say his shots give them boundless energy and more productive and pleasurable lives.

But at least a few of the doctor’s patients have quit, complaining of bad reactions and enslaving addictions to the amphetamine. Used over a long period of time, in large doses, the drug produces symptoms re-

sembling those of paranoid schizophrenia. Withdrawal produces a profound mental depression that can last for weeks or months.

Some of Dr. Jacobson’s patients say his treatments have wrecked lives and destroyed careers. In one instance, a patient died of what the Medical Examiner called acute “amphetamine poisoning.”



Dr. Max Jacobson

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he injects, patients are seldom told that the mixture contains anything beyond vitamins and hormones. The doctor would not reveal which patients received amphetamine and which, if any, did not.

The most famous of the doctor’s patients were President and Mrs. Kennedy. Dr. Jacobson frequently visited the White House and often traveled with the Kennedys. In 1961, for example, he went with the President to Vienna for the summit meeting with Khrushchev and, Dr. Jacobson said in an interview, gave the President injections there.

In addition to the Kennedys, other persons who were or are patients of the doctor include Truman Capote, Cecil B. DeMille, Eddie Fisher, Alan Jay Lerner, Representative Claude Pepper of Florida, Otto Preminger, Emilio Pucci, Anthony Quinn and Tennessee Williams.

Included among a number of other prominent patients of Dr. Jacobson have been Eusebio Morales, the former Panamanian Ambassador to England; Prince Stanislas Radziwill, Pres-

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ident Kennedy’s brother-in-law; Bob Richardson, once a top fashion photographer; the late Mark Shaw, a top photographer and Kennedy intimate; Saint Subber, the Broadway producer-director, and Pat Suzuki, the singer and actress.

An extensive inquiry also turned up the names of well over 100 others in ranking positions in government, journalism, finance, industry, society, and several entertainment fields who were said to be patients of Dr. Jacobson, but who could not be confirmed as such.

It cannot be said with certainty that the Kennedys or, with a few exceptions, any other specific patient received amphetamine.

It is known, however, that Dr. Jacobson uses unusually large amounts of amphetamine in his practice. The doctor’s office reported that Dr. Jacobson buys amphetamine at the rate of 80 grams a month. This is enough to make 100 fairly strong doses of 25 milligrams every day.

Investigated by U.S.

According to the Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, which has investigated Dr. Jacobson at different times over almost five years, a review by the agency of the doctor’s records showed that a substantial quantity of amphetamines he had purchased was unaccounted for. In 1969 the bureau ordered seizure of all controlled drugs in Dr. Jacobson’s possession, an action he contested in a suit that is still pending.

At all hours of the day or night patients go to Dr. Jacobson’s office at 56 East 87th Street—sometimes to his home—to receive the injections. Some go once a month, some weekly, some every day.

Dr. Max Jacobson is a physician of the old school with, according to many patients, a bedside manner that instills trust and admiration.

Although he is 72 years old, he looks 20 years younger. With his dark hair (most of which he still has), black-rimmed glasses and blue blazer over a turtleneck, he could be a fiftyish executive at the country club.

For all the rich patients he has had, the doctor does not appear to have become wealthy himself. He lives in a modest middle-class apartment in a luxury building on East 86th Street with paperback murder mysteries in the bathroom and a television set on a wheeled cart in the living room.

Even so, he enjoys the money of others from time to time by, for example, going on African safaris with Prince Radziwill or hobnobbing with movie stars

and jet-setters.

Mr. DeMille, in his autobiography, says that he took Dr. Jacobson along to Egypt as his guest and personal physician during the filming of "The Ten Commandments."

'He's Still My God'

In his heyday, Mr. Fisher often wined and dined Dr. Jacobson in Hollywood and Las Vegas and, it is said, did not like to open an act without Dr. Jacobson in the wings. Last June Mr. Fisher attended a wedding reception for Dr. Jacobson and his third wife and wrote on a poster of snapshots and wisecracks that is on display in the Jacobson dining room: "He's still my God."

Not all the doctor's patients remain as faithful. Many have bitter recollections of their experiences at Dr. Jacobson's hands. They say that he could be abrupt and gruff and that he would sometimes throw patients out of the office if he was displeased with them.

Mr. Preminger, the producer, said in an interview, "I was a patient of his for a very short time. He gave me shots. I don't know what was in them, but they made me feel terrible. It was one of the most fearful experiences of my life and I'd never go again."

Mr. Subber, the theatrical producer, told The Times he had been a patient of Dr. Jacobson's for 25 years but that he had quit about 10 years ago for reasons he said he preferred not to discuss.

Mr. Capote, who described Dr. Jacobson as a "powerful theatrical figure," said he stopped going to Dr. Jacobson after he had taken a series of treatments and then gone to Europe.

Mr. Capote said he had then collapsed and had to be hospitalized. (After a period of steady amphetamine use, the

typical withdrawal reaction is a sudden and extreme mental depression and physical lethargy.) Mr. Capote said the injections were supposed to be special vitamins but that because of the way he had felt, he had been sure they were loaded with "speed."

Most often, Dr. Jacobson said, when patients became disenchanted with him it was because they were either mentally unstable or because they were drinking while taking his drugs. Dr. Jacobson is adamant in requiring that his patients not drink. Otherwise, he said, they will experience bad reactions.

(Experts consulted by The Times said they knew of no specific "bad reaction" that would occur if a person took

alcohol and amphetamine. However, Dr. Jacobson sometimes gives people barbiturates, which can be fatal if taken in large amounts while drinking.)

John Roberts, a patient who has worked for Dr. Jacobson for many years as an unpaid assistant and unofficial manager, described an incident when he threw Tennessee Williams out of the office.

Mr. Williams, Mr. Roberts said, "came in with a bottle—can you imagine—and he was boozing it up in the patients' room and I said to Max, 'He's drunk in there,' and Max said throw him out so I threw him out."

Many of Dr. Jacobson's long-time patients do not have to come to the office for daily shots. They are given 30-cubic-centimeter vials of the drug, usually mixed with vitamins and hormones, and a number of disposable needles. They have been taught to inject themselves with one cubic centimeter a day.

Although Dr. Jacobson readily acknowledged in interviews that his preparations included amphetamines, he insisted that the dose levels he gives are too small to produce a "kick" or to lead to dependence when administered in the quantities as directed.

Dr. Jacobson said the most amphetamines he ever puts in his concoctions would yield a 25-milligram dose with each injection. Usually, he said, the dose is less. Dr. Jacobson also acknowledged that he has taken his own medicine for many years.

Most Use Only Occasional

The dosage level is one that, in the opinion of pharmacology experts, would lead, if it were given daily over a period of weeks, to a dependence on the drug and a tolerance to its effects that would require increasing doses to achieve the desired effect.

Extensive inquiry indicates, however, that most of Dr. Jacobson's patients use the stimulant in dosages below that required to produce severe symptoms. They appear to use amphetamine only from time to time to get "up" for special occasions or to get through difficult periods. Only a few patients can be said to rely on amphetamines in sufficient dosage to produce strong, continuing reliance.

Perhaps one of the most devoted of Dr. Jacobson's current patients is Alan Jay Lerner, the man who wrote "My Fair Lady," "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever," "Camelot," "Brigadoon," "Paint Your Wagon," "An American in Paris" and "Gigi."

Mr. Lerner told The Times

that he sees Dr. Jacobson only a few times a year for sinus headaches but that he does consider the doctor to be a "great man" and an outstanding and compassionate physician.

Testimony during a 1965 trial in which Michelene Lerner, Mr. Lerner's wife, sought a legal separation from her husband (they are now divorced) sug-

gests that, at least at that time, the situation was different.

Mrs. Lerner testified that her husband had become addicted to injections from Dr. Jacobson "that helped him to write faster." She told a packed courtroom that her husband had told her that "maybe they [the injections] will destroy me but they make me see life in a good light."

Mr. Lerner, in his opposing affidavit, denied that he had been "addicted" and contended that among Dr. Jacobson's other patients were "a former President and his entire family, a member of the present Cabinet, one of the leading Senators in the United States Senate, several of the leading industrialists in this country and Europe and their families, several of the leading writers in the country, and a dozen or two of the most prominent members of the performing arts, and several of the leading physicians in this city, including a former department head of Cornell Medical Center and a former department head of Memorial Hospital, etc."

Mrs. Lerner said her husband visited Dr. Jacobson's office at all hours of the day and sometimes stayed all night. She also told the court that her husband had persuaded her to take the shots also, but that she had quit after two months because "the shots made me feel bizarre, very high."

During the trial Mrs. Lerner said Anthony Quinn had told Mr. Lerner about the shots, which he also took, saying that they gave him "high-octane dreams."

Only Vitamins and Enzymes

On the stand Mr. Lerner conceded that he took shots from Dr. Jacobson but said they contained only vitamins and enzymes.

After four days the trial ended with an out-of-court settlement and the Lerner's agreed to a statement that said the injections "consisted of vitamins and enzymes and contain no drugs nor have any addictive effects whatsoever." Louis Nizer, who was Mr. Lerner's attorney, said both parties accepted the statement and withdrew any prior assertions to

the contrary.

Once, when Dr. Jacobson was in the audience for the Boston try-out of Mr. Lerner's "On a Clear Day," he turned to Mrs. Burton Lane, the wife of the musical's composer, and made a boast that many persons said he often makes.

As Mrs. Lane recalled it, Dr. Jacobson pointed to his tie clip, a PT-109 insignia, and said, "Do you know where I got this? I worked with the Kennedys. I traveled with the Kennedys. I treated the Kennedys. Jack Kennedy, Jacqueline. They never could have made it without me. They gave me this in gratitude."

Confirmation by Mrs. Onassis

The exact nature of the relationship between the doctor and John F. Kennedy is not clear, but there is little doubt that he treated the President and Mrs. Kennedy on several occasions.

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis confirmed through a spokesman that she had been treated by Dr. Jacobson but declined to elaborate.

A New York doctor who treated President Kennedy, and who refused to allow his name to be used, told The Times that although he warned the President not to take shots from Dr. Jacobson, he believes there may have been at least one occasion when Dr. Jacobson gave Mr. Kennedy injections.

"When I heard about that incident, I made it very clear that I was not going to tolerate this," the doctor recalled. "I said that if I ever heard that

he took another shot, I'd make sure it was known. No President with his finger on the red button has any business taking stuff like that."

Dr. Jacobson himself described two occasions on which he treated President Kennedy. One was in Vienna during the new President's first summit meeting.

As Dr. Jacobson told it, the President had an infection in his hand that he treated by putting a tourniquet around Mr. Kennedy's arm for half an hour after giving an intravenous injection that included antibiotics and immune globulin. Dr. Jacobson said the infection vanished within minutes.

The other occasion was in 1961, when President Kennedy was to address the United Nations on disarmament. Dr. Jacobson said he went to see the President at the Carlyle Hotel just before the speech and found him suffering from laryngitis.

Dr. Jacobson said that he had

said, "Mr. President, what I'm going to do hasn't been done before," and gave him a shot in the neck over the voice box. "Five minutes later he could talk very clearly," Dr. Jacobson said. "Later on I have done that with many singers at the Metropolitan."

Testified on Addiction

At the invitation of Congressman Pepper, Dr. Jacobson appeared before the House Select Committee on Crime on June 30, 1970, to discuss the treatment of heroin addiction.

In the biography that Dr. Jacobson submitted to the committee is the following passage:

"Dr. Jacobson is particularly interested in using his methods to counteract the severe physical and emotional stresses of those who live and work in environments of continual high pressure.

"In this context he has been entrusted with the supervision of the health of a large number of highly placed government officials, including several heads of state, numerous business and industrial leaders, and a great many top-rank members of the performing arts."

Mr. Pepper, who was chairman of the House committee, introduced Dr. Jacobson at the hearings by saying, "I have known Dr. Jacobson for a long time and have the highest esteem for his professional excellence and for his achievements. He treated some of the most important and distinguished patients in the world and I think he is a man of extraordinary professional skill and particularly is imaginative."

As Dr. Jacobson was testifying before Mr. Pepper's committee, one of the doctor's former patients was beginning to rebuild a life shattered by amphetamine addiction and the psychosis it produces.

'I Was a Victim'

"I was a victim of bad medicine," said Bob Richardson, a top fashion photographer who at the height of his career was selling individual photographs for up to \$9,000.

Mr. Richardson said in an interview that his experiences with Dr. Jacobson began in 1963.

"I had heard about this doctor through a friend, a fashion model," he said. "She kept telling me about this doctor who gave injectable medication in vials. They made her feel marvelous. She didn't say what was in them. I was told he worked with all sorts of chemicals which were extraordinarily good for your health and well-being."

Mr. Richardson said he had

sought an appointment with the doctor. "It's practically impossible to be taken there as a patient unless you know someone. He only wanted celebrities."

Mr. Richardson said he had started going to Dr. Jacobson once a month but soon felt he needed to go twice a month.

"Every time you went to see him, he would talk to you about your problems and what your

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Dr. Jacobson, standing at right, with President Kennedy outside Palm Beach, Fla. On the ground are Charles Spalding, left, Mr. Kennedy's roommate at Harvard, and Prince Stanislas Radziwill, Mr. Kennedy's brother-in-law, who had set out on a 50-mile hike down the Sunshine Parkway towards Miami. Despite sore feet, they completed hike.

life was like at the time," Mr. Richardson said. "Then he would prepare an intravenous needle for your arm and an intramuscular for your hip. You got the two injections and then he would make up a 30-cc vial for you and you were given a prescription for hypodermic needles."

Mr. Richardson explained that as the patients came to want their injections daily, a nurse would teach them how to give themselves injections in the hip. Selected patients were taught to give themselves intravenous injections.

"He never said what was in the bottle," Mr. Richardson said. "But I realized quickly I was getting speed. Typical of all people who become addicts, I was quite sure that I could control it."

'I Could Never Sleep'

After each injection, Mr. Richardson said, "I used to be up for two or three days. If I wasn't working, I was walking around, going out all night. I could never sleep."

"I couldn't live without it. I was a total addict. Sometimes I couldn't get a vial—Dr. Jacobson would go away or something. People would be lining up in the waiting room. There would be pandemonium."

(Dr. Harry Barowsky, who once practiced in an office next door to Dr. Jacobson, said that at night some of Dr. Jacobson's patients would mistakenly break in through his windows, looking for drugs.)

"Without the stuff I felt miserable, depressed, tired and very nervous," Mr. Richardson said. "Amphetamine made me very nervous, very talkative . . . jaws would grind . . . thirsty."

Over a period of months, Mr. Richardson said, Dr. Jacobson took the photographer into his confidence and "became very close to me." Mr. Richardson said that on one occasion Dr. Jacobson took him to London to attend a party being given in Dr. Jacobson's honor by the Panamanian Embassy.

'From All Over Europe'

Eusebio Morales, then Panama's Ambassador to London and still a patient and close friend of Dr. Jacobson, presented a medal to the doctor at the reception. "People from all over Europe came and he gave them all shots," Mr. Richardson recalled.

Mr. Richardson described Dr. Jacobson's office as a beehive of activity.

"There was always a receptionist, two nurses and a group of men working in the laboratory in the back," he said. "Sometimes Dr. Jacobson would take me in there at night. There were cauldrons and

masses of rocks and things boiling around. It was like science fiction, the colored lights. Then he would show me what he described as uranium, which he put in the vials. Very often the vials had little rocks at the bottom to give energy, he said."

'Ultrasonic Bombardment'

According to Mr. Richardson and other patients, Dr. Jacobson often told people he was involved in high-level medical research. The Congressional Record shows, for example, that the doctor told Mr. Pepper's committee that he makes his medications using "ultrasonic bombardment" and "a strong magnetic field and the ability of certain minerals and precious stones to retain fluorescence."

Although Dr. Jacobson's statement apparently impressed many laymen, doctors who read the full statement said the techniques used could not do what was claimed for them.

Dr. Jacobson also says he co-invented a "laser microscope" in 1953 — seven years before the first laser was developed. The doctor told The Times the device was more powerful than the best microscopes in use today.

Asked why no scientists used the invention, Dr. Jacobson said that, unfortunately, his partner was "completely insane" and ran off with the device and has not been heard from since.

Mr. Richardson said that after about three years of steadily increasing dosages of Dr. Jacobson's medications, he was approaching a complete mental collapse.

"I was black and blue from

my knuckles to my shoulders," he said, describing the effects of repeated intravenous injections. "I also got shots in my foot and the back of my neck. He gave me shots in my spinal column and right between my ribs when I had a cold."

Mr. Richardson said the break came shortly after a visit to Dr. Jacobson's office one night when the doctor refused to give him an injection of the regular medication and, instead, gave him Thorazine, a tranquilizer.

'I Went Mad'

"The next day," Mr. Richardson recalled, "I went berserk in my home. I went mad. I was committed to Payne Whitney [Psychiatric Clinic of New York Hospital] in a straitjacket." The diagnosis was amphetamine poisoning.

Mr. Richardson said he was so severely depressed—the usu-

al aftermath of an amphetamine addiction—that he was in a mental hospital for two years. Gradually, he made a recovery and is now rebuilding his photographic career.

Another photographer who became a patient of Dr. Jacobson is dead, the cause certified by the New York City Medical Examiner's office as "acute and chronic intravenous amphetamine poisoning."

Hike With Kennedy

He was Mark Shaw, who at the peak of his career was grossing more than a million dollars a year and was an intimate of the Kennedy clan. At the time of his death he was married to Pat Suzuki, the singer and actress.

Shortly before President Kennedy's assassination, Mr. Shaw published a book of photographs entitled "The John F. Kennedys." It contains a number of pictures of the Kennedys at play. One depicts the President on an outing with Prince Radziwill and Dr. Jacobson during a 50-mile hike from Palm Beach toward Miami.

In a brief passage accompanying the picture, Mr. Shaw described how the doctor attended cases of fatigue and sore feet: "Various tender spots were displayed and Dr. Max Jacobson carefully checked the wounded extremities. He had been talked out of the hike after 11 miles when he turned his ankle. The President worried about Stash [Prince Radziwill] but Dr. Max was on hand. It was difficult to keep Dr. Max from competing; as always he was everybody's 'good friend' and insisted on treating everyone in sight."

Autopsy Performed

Mr. Shaw dedicated the book as follows: "To my friend and companion Dr. Max Jacobson."

Mark Shaw died in his Kips Bay apartment on Jan. 26, 1969, at the age of 47. When the Medical Examiner's office called, Dr. Jacobson insisted that Mr. Shaw had had a history of heart disease and that he had died of a heart attack.

The autopsy by Dr. Michael M. Baden, associate medical examiner, showed another cause. There was no evidence of heart disease, but Mr. Shaw's internal organs were laden with methamphetamine residue (methamphetamine is a form of amphetamine). There was heavy scarring and discoloration along the veins in Mr. Shaw's arms—the "tracks" of someone who repeatedly injects himself with drugs.

To this day Dr. Jacobson insists that Mark Shaw died not of an amphetamine overdose but, the doctor now says, of a blow to the head that caused Mr. Shaw to vomit and then

inhale the vomitus, causing asphyxiation.

Dr. Baden said there was no evidence at the autopsy to support such a contention.

"Amphetamine," Dr. Jacobson said in an interview, "is not an addictive drug. Heroin is. Morphine is." Most authorities would disagree with regard to amphetamine.

The House Select Committee on Crime, for example, said after hearings three years ago: "Testimony before the Select Committee on Crime during its November, 1969, hearing on amphetamine abuse clearly established that the various amphetamine-type drugs are physically addicting, just as heroin and cocaine are addicting."

For all his fame among the famous, Dr. Jacobson remains

almost unknown to the public. His name has appeared in public print only a few times, either as mentions in Hollywood gossip columns that usually add that he has "a large show-biz clientele," or as the author of general articles on health during the nineteen-fifties in *The American Mercury*, *Reader's Digest* and *Argosy*.

The American Medical Association, to which Dr. Jacobson belonged until 1971, when he was dropped for failing to pay dues, lists the doctor's birthplace as Fordon, Germany, and says he took his medical degree at Frederick Wilhelm University in Berlin in 1924. In 1936 Dr. Jacobson emigrated to the United States and set up practice in New York City, where he has remained since.

Since 1946, Dr. Jacobson has not had staff privileges at any hospital and has confined his practice to office procedures, referring patients to other doctors when they need hospitalization.

Among the doctors who have worked with Dr. Jacobson in this manner was Dr. Charles Ressler, an internist with whom Dr. Jacobson wrote a paper in the *New York State Journal of Medicine* in 1956. The subject was an out-patient treatment for hepatitis.

Disavows Connection

Dr. Ressler disavowed any connection with Dr. Jacobson's treatment methods but added:

"I think he believes what he does helps the patient. I feel his heart's in the right place. I have occasionally seen people that he's treated over a period of time at no cost whatsoever to the patient. That always makes me feel that a man's not perhaps what he seems to be when you hear some of the ad-

verse comment. I'm not responsible for whatever he thinks he's doing by his multi-injection technique."

Another physician who accepted some referrals for medical conditions from Dr. Jacobson is Dr. Frank Weiser, a cardiologist at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Dr. Weiser told *The Times* that he had treated Dr. Jacobson himself about seven years ago when the doctor became severely ill after giving himself an undiluted intravenous injection of Lincocin, an antibiotic that is supposed to be mixed with a pint of water before injection.

"That incapacitated him for two or three months," Dr. Weiser said, "actually made him bedridden for a good part of that time. I was closest to him then. I was very pleased to care for him."

Multiple Sclerosis Treated

"I consider myself a friend but," Dr. Weiser emphasized, "I am in no way associated with him in the medical practice. Occasionally he refers a patient to me for medical treatment but at no time at all am I in any way at all associated with any of the so-called experimentation that he carries on, about which I know nothing."

The part of Dr. Jacobson's experimentation about which the doctor himself speaks most readily is his treatment of multiple sclerosis patients. Every Tuesday at the doctor's office is reserved for such patients. Dr. Jacobson said he has about 75 currently coming regularly for shots.

Recently the doctor invited two reporters to visit his offices on "MS day" to see that "I am not just amphetamines."

The small waiting room was nearly filled with patients, some of whom came on crutches and in wheelchairs.

Offices Described

A laboratory is lined with five-pound canisters marked "B-2" and "thiamine." The doctor's treatment room is small and cluttered, jammed with tables, chairs, shelves, a sofa, and a water cooler filled with a mixture of cranberry and apple juices.

As the reporters sat on the sofa, beneath a large sketch of John F. Kennedy, Dr. Jacobson called in the first patient.

A middle-aged Westchester woman walked in painfully, apparently suffering partial paralysis. Dr. Jacobson and the patient bantered amiably.

"Will you tell these gentlemen how the treatment affects

you," Dr. Jacobson said to the woman.

"Well," she replied, "I come in like I came in this morning—pretty low."

"And you go out the door singing?" Dr. Jacobson asked.

"Yep."

The doctor then swung around in his chair, took out a syringe, fitted a needle on the end and pulled down a bottle of yellow liquid. He sprayed the rubber top of the bottle with Lysol, before pushing the needle through to withdraw the liquid.

Says She Feels Better

"It has been recently adopted," Dr. Jacobson said. "Lysol is better than alcohol."

After getting a little from one bottle, the doctor reached for another and another, taking some fluid from each until the syringe contained several different drugs. After delivering the injection in the woman's hip, Dr. Jacobson concocted another mixture in the syringe and administered it in the neck.

Then the doctor took a small needle and, calling his procedure acupuncture, quickly jabbed the needle in several places in the woman's neck and knees. Then he took out a vibrator with a magnet taped to it and rubbed it over the woman's hands and feet.

When the procedure was over the woman said she was feeling better already, demonstrated how much better she could walk and departed.

Other patients were treated with much the same procedures, the doctor never once referring to notes or formulas as he mixed up sometimes six and eight injections for a patient. Dr. Jacobson delivered his portions in the skin covering the hips, neck, jaws, abdomen and knees.

Statement by Drug Bureau

In recent years Dr. Jacobson has been investigated several times by the Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. In response to an inquiry by *The Times*, a bureau official gave this statement:

"Dr. Jacobson was the subject of a compliance order conducted on March 6, 1968, that developed numerous reord-keeping violations."

"In October, 1969, following another investigation, seizure was ordered of all controlled drugs in possession of Dr. Jacobson. This action is currently being contested in a civil action brought by the subject and pending before the civil section of the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York."

Although the bureau's investigation has been going on

over almost five years, no action has been taken to charge Dr. Jacobson with any violations or to prevent him from carrying on his practice.

State Investigation

The Division of Professional Conduct of the New York State Department of Education, which regulates the practice of medicine, said that it too had an investigation of the doctor in progress.

Dr. Jacobson said recently that his practice is now "busier than ever."

Dr. Lawrence Hatterer, a New York psychiatrist who has treated several victims of amphetamine overuse, including several former patients of Dr. Jacobson who became psychotic, believes that some persons are particularly susceptible to dependence on such stimulants.

"They were people," he said, referring to his patients, "in high-powered industries who were constantly challenged to come up with greater and greater creative projects. They needed this kind of extra chemical push to meet the increasing demands."

Dr. Michael A. Rosenbluth, a New York internist and member of the Mayor's Committee on Amphetamine Abuse, has also treated a number of upper-class amphetamine abusers and has a different perspective:

"I have been struck," he said, "by the remarkable similarities between them and my methadone patients at the clinic at Lenox Hill. They're both after the same thing for the same reason—something to make their lives easier and more pleasant."

Amphetamine and Accidental Addicts

Amphetamine, a powerful mental stimulant that was once widely and carelessly prescribed, has, in the preponderant opinion of medical experts, led to more serious problems of inadvertent addiction and psychiatric complications than any other legally available drug.

Abbott Laboratories, manufacturer of one brand of the synthetic chemical, warns in its literature on the product:

"Amphetamines have a significant potential for abuse. Tolerance and extreme psychological dependence have occurred. There are reports of patients who have increased the dosage to many times that recommended.

"Manifestations of chronic intoxication with amphetamines include severe dermatoses [skin diseases], marked insomnia, irritability, hyperactivity and personality changes. The most severe manifestation of chronic intoxication is psychosis, often clinically indistinguishable from schizophrenia."

The Current Opinions

The current opinion on amphetamine represents a substantial change from the view of a decade ago, when the drugs were widely used to treat mental depression and as "pep pills" to relieve or prevent fatigue.

As an antidepressant, most doctors say, amphetamine was not always effective. Today, they note, there are newer drugs that are more effective and less habit forming.

In the case of preventing fatigue, it is now known that although amphetamine may cause the user to feel wide awake and able to meet any challenge, his performance under the influence of the drug, although extended over a longer period of time, is frequently diminished in quality.

There is also wide agreement among medical authorities that amphetamine should not ordinarily be prescribed except

for the treatment of two rare disorders—narcolepsy, a compulsion to fall asleep, and hyperkinetic behavior in children.

Some doctors also feel that because amphetamines suppress the appetite, they are useful in treating obesity. Many doctors disagree, contending that the risk of addiction after the first few weeks outweighs the drug's benefits.

Dr. Nathan Kline, a psychiatrist at Rockland State Hospital and a recognized authority on mind-affecting drugs, said many doctors have found that use of amphetamines, which "excite" brain cells, causing them to relay signals more rapidly, leads to alterations in behavior and thinking patterns. Long-term users become irritable and garrulous and often suffer delusions of grandeur and exhibit behavior resembling paranoid schizophrenia.

'Among Most Dangerous'

Even first-time users, the experts say, are often restless and confused and likely to assault others. Many individuals have an exaggerated sense of personal power.

"Amphetamines are among the most dangerous of currently abused psychoactive drugs," said Dr. George R. Edison of the University of Utah medical school.

"Amphetamines are associated with tolerance and an intense psychological dependence, which makes it difficult to withdraw from the drug without help. High-dose use may begin in a pattern of illegal experimentation but it may also begin with a physician's well-intended prescription," he said.

Dr. Sheldon N. Capp, staff psychiatrist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, said that even a dose as low as 10 to 15 milligrams—a level commonly used in weight control programs—over a period of months could lead to dependence.